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FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

Crime and Punishment



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Fyodor Dostoyevsky



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about the author

Born in Moscow, Russia, in 1821, Fyodor Dostoyevsky led a very unsettled life. When his mother died, his father sent Fyodor and his brother Michail to an army engineering school. But Fyodor did not like engineering, and he turned instead to art and literature.

At the age of twenty-five, Dostoyevsky published his first novel, *Poor Folk*. This immediately made him famous, and he became the darling of Russia. But during this time he had also joined a group of revolutionaries who were caught and sent to prison in Siberia. After four years at hard labor and several more years in the army, Dostoyevsky had plenty of material to use for future novels.

Among Dostoyevsky's greatest works are *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *The Possessed*, and *The Brothers Karamazov*. Although these and other novels brought him wealth, he could never manage to enjoy it. He was a gambler, a troublemaker, a man who always acted before he thought, yet he was also a loving father and brother, and a very generous person. His health had never been good, however, so that between his sickness and his difficult life, he seemed to grow old very quickly. Dostoyevsky died in 1881 at the age of sixty. He is known as one of Russia's greatest writers.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT

Fyodor Dostoyevsky



Sonya



Razumikhin



Raskolnikov



Zametov



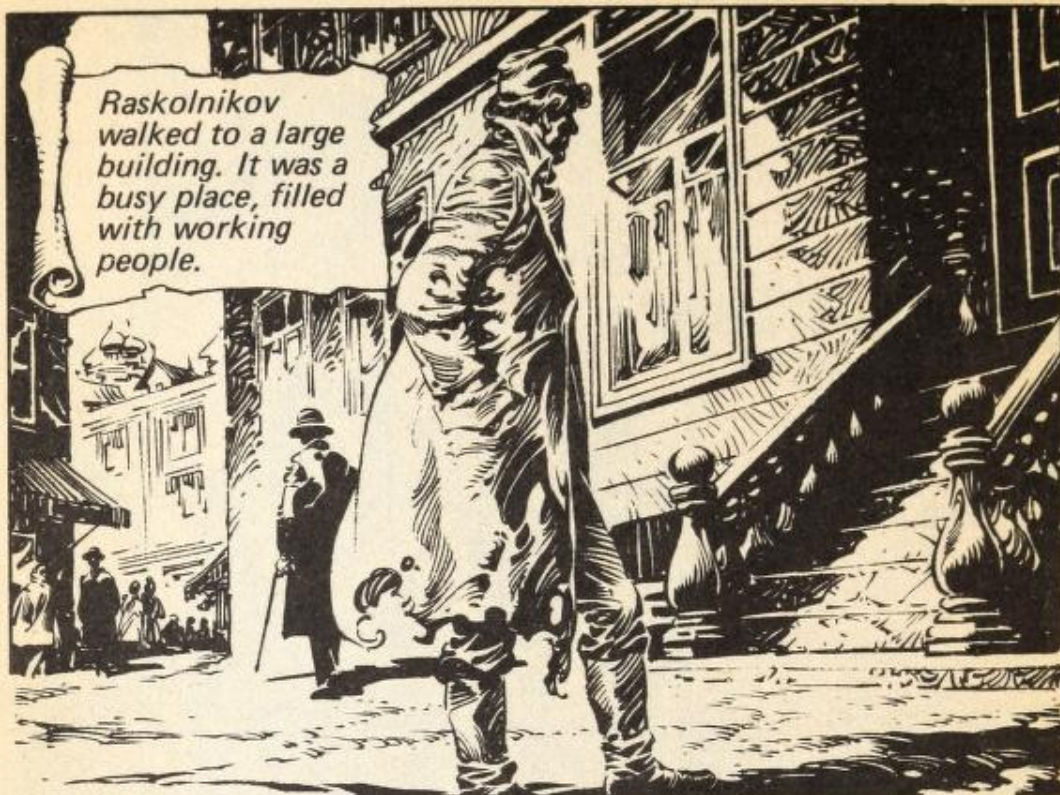
Old Woman



Raskolnikov was a handsome young man who lived in Russia. He was also very poor.

Could I really do such a thing?
No, it's crazy! Still, it could
be a great plan to prove that
I am smarter than most men.

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Raskolnikov walked to a large building. It was a busy place, filled with working people.

Raskolnikov did not like meeting people. The dark stairs where no one could see him made him feel safer. Still, he was shaking as he went up to the next floor.



If I'm scared now, what would it be like if I really came here to do it?

On the fourth floor, some men were moving furniture from an apartment.



Good! That means no one will be living under the old woman's place.

Crime and Punishment

Raskolnikov went to the fifth floor and rang the doorbell. The old woman opened the door just a little bit.

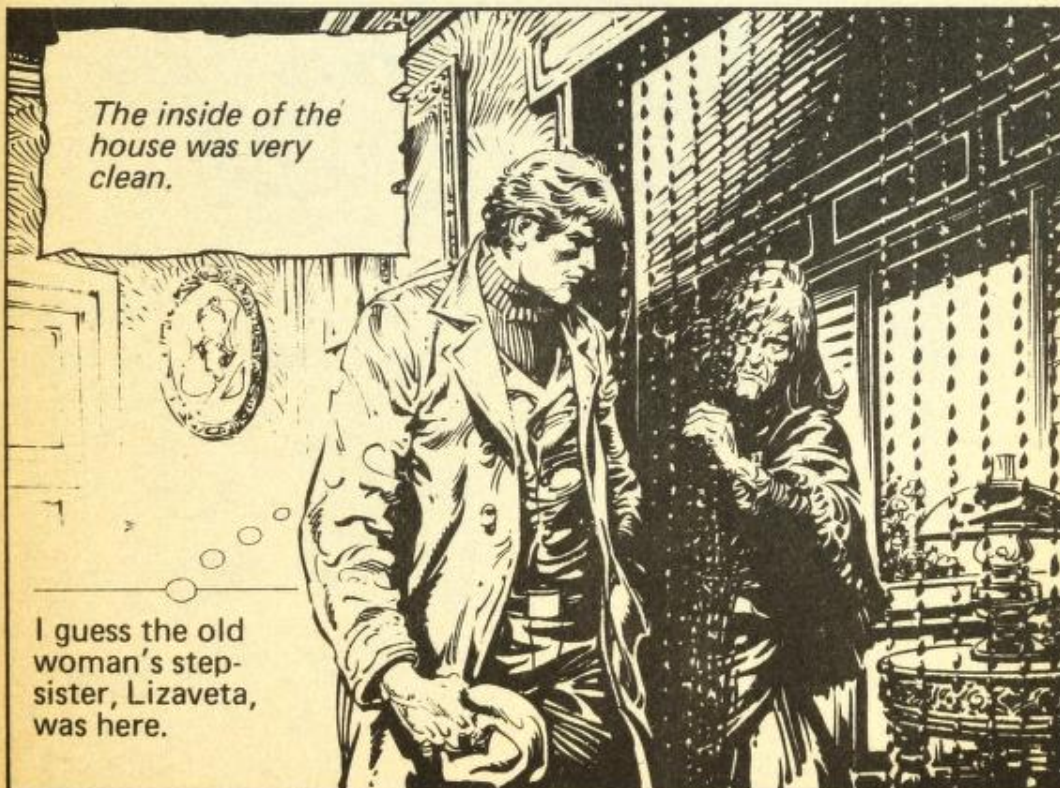


It's Raskolnikov, the student. I gave you a silver ring last month, and you lent me some money.

The old woman looked at him for a while, and then she opened the door.



Your time ran out yesterday, but come in if you have *more* business for me.



The inside of the house was very clean.

I guess the old woman's step-sister, Lizaveta, was here.

POCKET CLASSICS



Crime and Punishment



But this is only one ruble and fifteen kopeks!



POCKET CLASSICS

Raskolnikov ran down the street.

How could I have had such a terrible idea?



Raskolnikov stopped walking near a tavern. He had never gone into one before, but he was very thirsty. Without thinking, he ran down the steps.



He asked for some beer and sat down. He drank it quickly and felt much better.



May I talk with you? I would have never guessed that you were a man who likes to drink.

Crime and Punishment

I was a student, but now I am too poor to pay for school.



School. Well, it is not bad to be poor, and it is not good to be drunk! My name is Marmeladov.

There are times when I don't know what will happen to me.



I wanted work, but I couldn't find a job. I've seen my family go without food! I've watched my daughter work in the streets to make money.



My beautiful daughter, Sonya! She must work hard so that the family can eat.



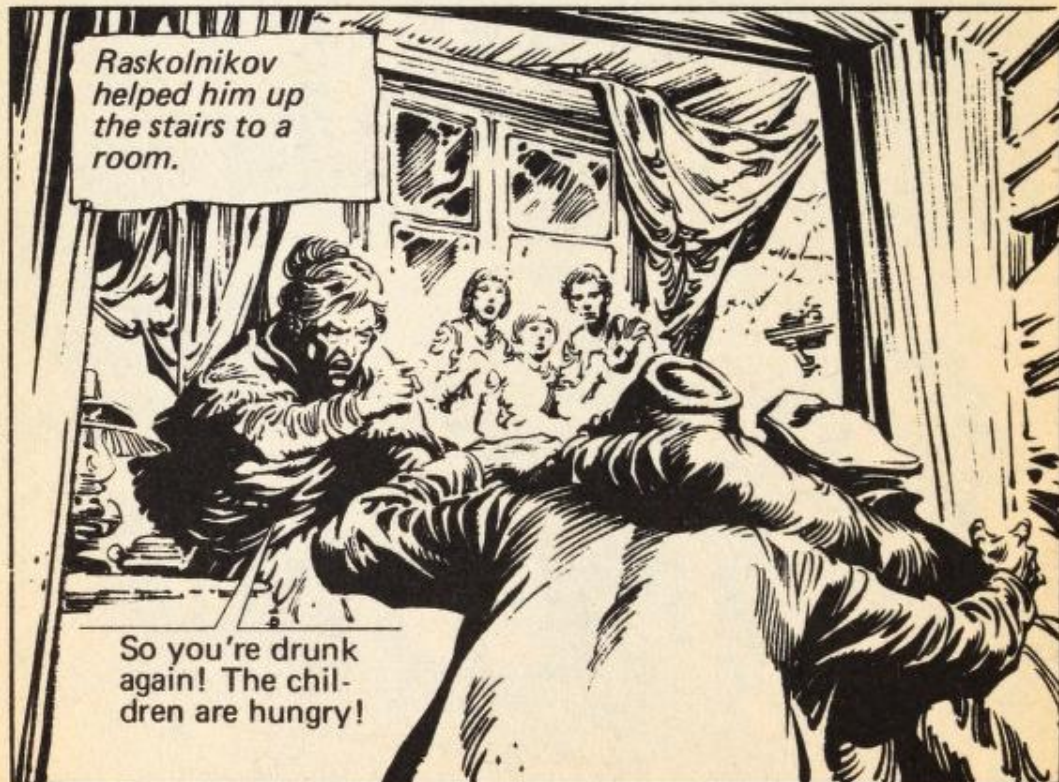
And I must drink, because I cannot help her. Every man must have somewhere to turn!



POCKET CLASSICS



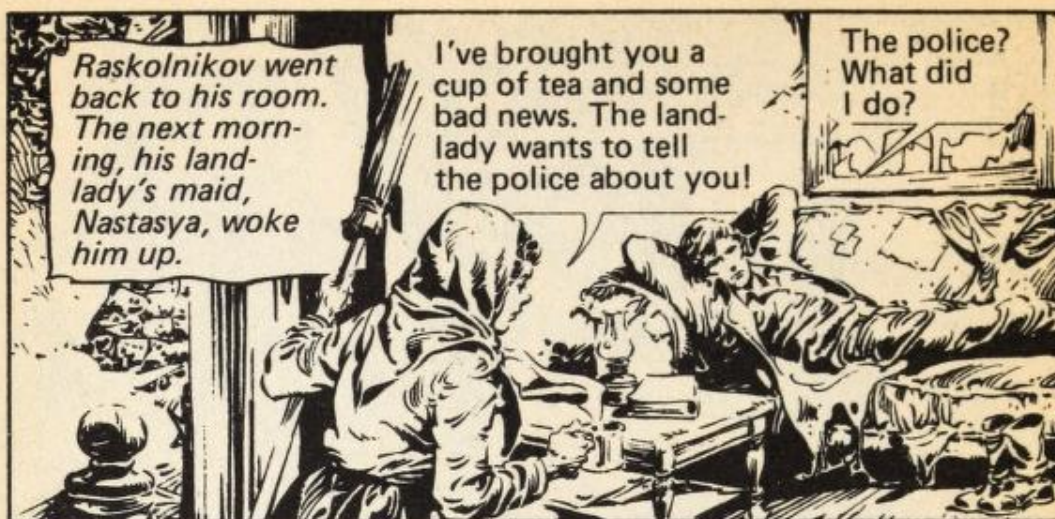
Raskolnikov wanted to leave too. They walked toward Marmeladov's house.



Crime and Punishment



POCKET CLASSICS



When Nastasya
had gone,
Raskolnikov
opened the
letter.

My Dearest son,

It worries me to hear that you have left school because you have no money, but good luck will come to us soon. Your sister, Dunya, who loves you very much, is going to marry Mr. Luzhin, an older man, but a nice one. He is a lawyer. Dunya does not love him, but she has a good heart. She says she will be happy just to take good care of him. She is sure that he will pay for your school and later give you a job! Isn't that wonderful! And, best of all, we will see you in Saint Petersburg soon! That is where Mr. Luzhin lives. We love you very much!

Love,
Mother

Pulkheria Raskolnikov

A "nice man" she says . . . "doesn't love him" she says . . . I will never let such a marriage take place!

After reading the letter, Raskolnikov ran downstairs and into the street.

Why, she will be no different from that poor man Marmeladov's daughter, Sonya. She's hurting herself to save me!

POCKET CLASSICS

But then he stopped running and stood very still.

But what can I do to stop it? I cannot do anything to help my family.



And the words of Marmeladov came back to Raskolnikov.

Every man must have somewhere to turn!



Raskolnikov did have one friend, a student.

Of course! There's Razumikhin!



Razumikhin was a great fellow! He always had an idea. But then Raskolnikov hesitated. Razumikhin was as poor as he was.



Now there is only that terrible idea left. I will go to Razumikhin when it is over.

All day, Raskolnikov walked the streets. He was bothered by his thoughts.

Raskolnikov kept walking, and suddenly. . .

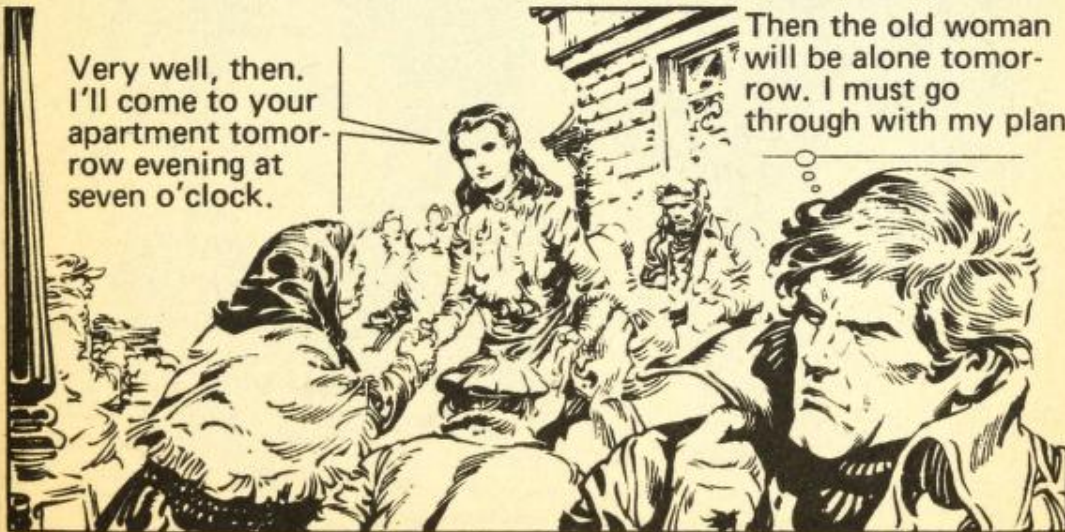
There must be a way. I don't want to go through with this terrible plan.

Why, it's Lizaveta, the old woman's stepsister!



Very well, then. I'll come to your apartment tomorrow evening at seven o'clock.

Then the old woman will be alone tomorrow. I must go through with my plan!



POCKET CLASSICS

Suddenly Raskolnikov remembered something he had heard just after he had gone to the old woman's house for the first time.

That Alyona Ivanovna! She has a lot of money in her apartment, but she makes her stepsister work like a slave.

Yes, and she's leaving it to some church people. She wants them to pray for her soul when she's dead.

Think of the many good things someone could do with all that money! Someone should kill her, eh?

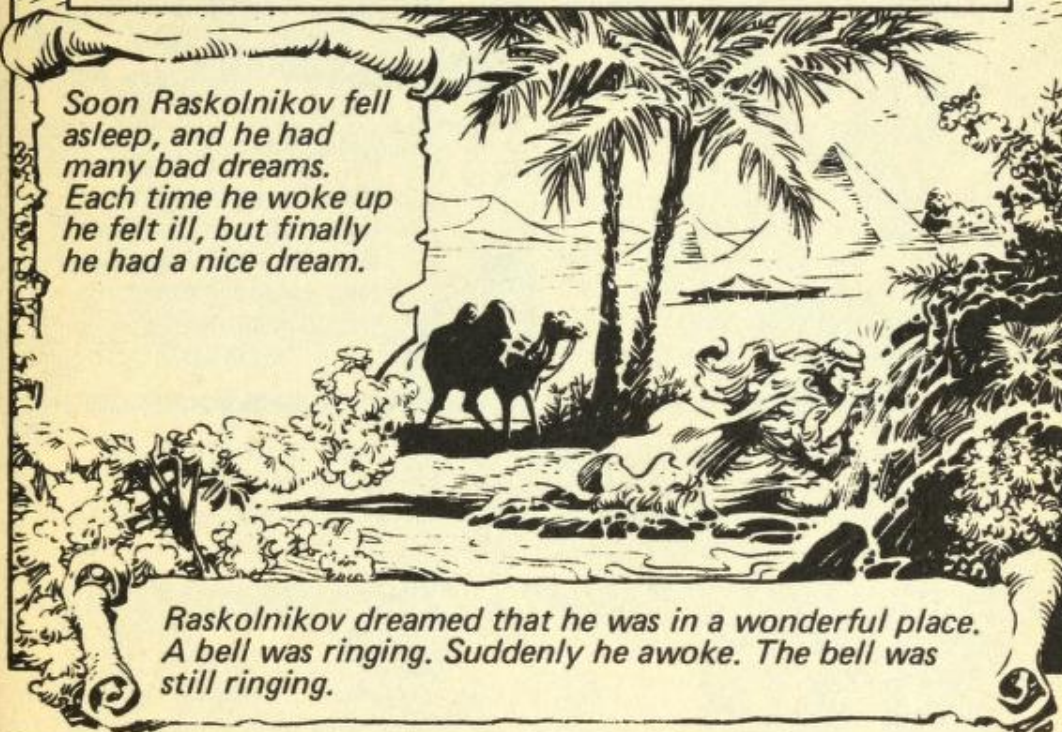
It seems to me that many *good* things could be done after that one *bad* thing!



By the time Raskolnikov reached his room, his head hurt.



Soon Raskolnikov fell asleep, and he had many bad dreams. Each time he woke up he felt ill, but finally he had a nice dream.



Raskolnikov dreamed that he was in a wonderful place. A bell was ringing. Suddenly he awoke. The bell was still ringing.

It's six o'clock. I've been asleep all day.



Now he would have to hurry. There were still many things to do.

POCKET CLASSICS

He sewed a noose inside his coat.



I'll hang the ax on the noose. My hands will be free, and no one will think I've done anything wrong.

Then he took a piece of wood and a piece of metal and wrapped them in some paper.



I'll tell the old woman that I've brought a silver cigarette case. It must be tied tightly so that she will have trouble opening it.

He had planned each step carefully, but somehow everything took longer now that he was really doing it. He took an ax from the tool shed. He walked slowly toward the old woman's building so no one would notice him.



It's late! I must be quick.



No one saw him as he went into the old woman's building. But he saw some men on the second floor.

It would be better if they were not here, but I'm sure they won't hear anything.



Finally Raskolnikov came to the old woman's door. He rang the bell.



It seemed like forever before the old woman opened the door.

Who's there? What do you want?

It's Raskolnikov. I've brought you a silver cigarette case.

POCKET CLASSICS

You look so pale, and your hands are shaking.

I have a fever, and I've had nothing to eat. Quick! Take this and open it.



The old woman carried the package to the window so that she could see it better. Raskolnikov was behind her. He had a terrible look on his face as he swung the ax toward the old woman's head.

Why have you tied it so carefully? Are you sure it's silver?



She cried out softly when Raskolnikov hit her. Then she fell to the floor.

I've done it!



Crime and Punishment

Quickly Raskolnikov bent down and took the keys from the old woman's pocket. Then he noticed a string around her neck.



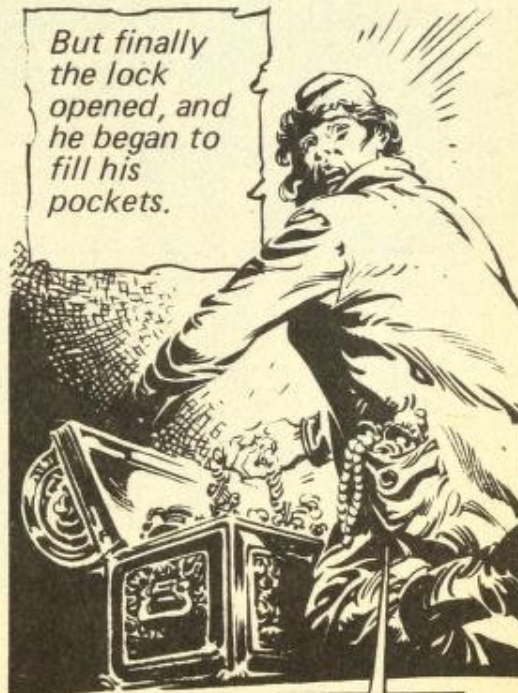
The purse on the string was very full. He put it in his pocket without looking inside.



Then he ran into the bedroom. His hands were shaking. He could not open the lock on the trunk.



But finally the lock opened, and he began to fill his pockets.

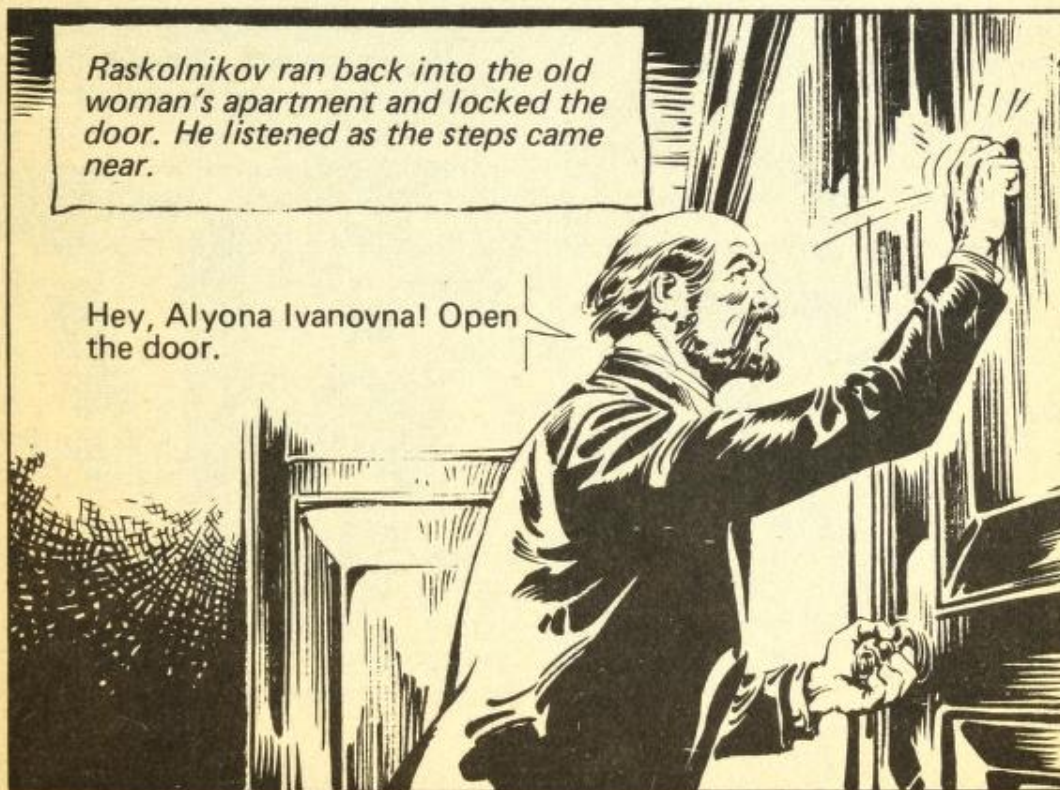
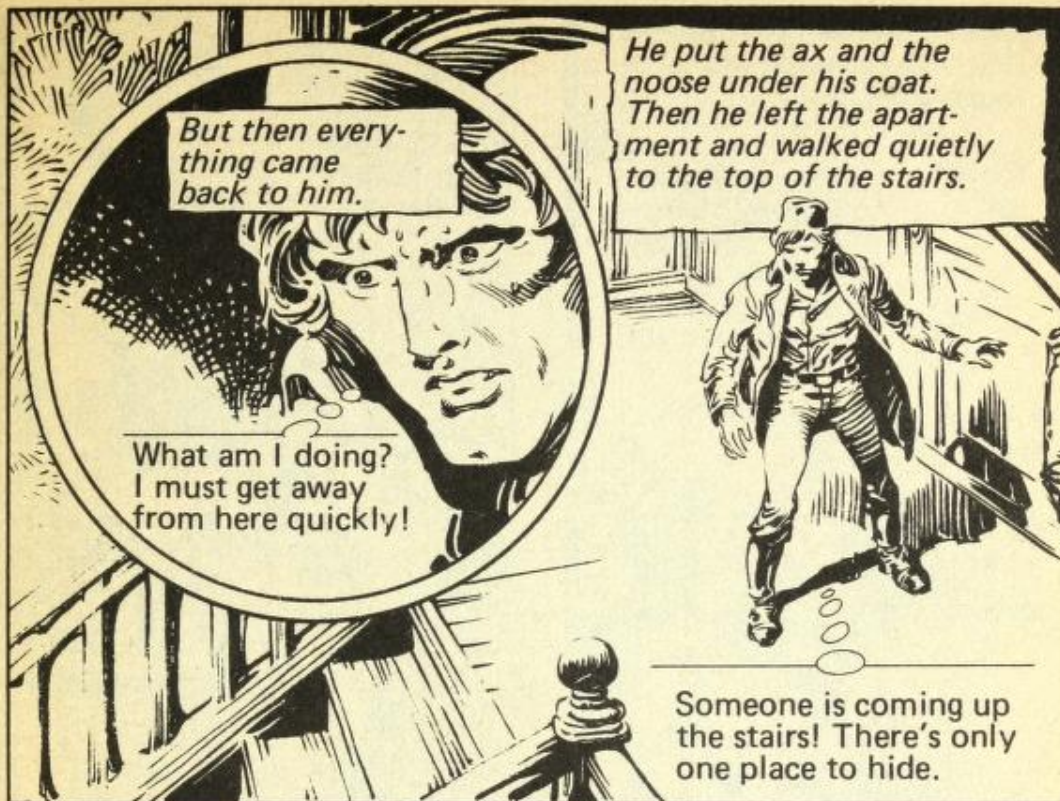


What's that sound?

POCKET CLASSICS



Crime and Punishment



POCKET CLASSICS



Raskolnikov stayed quietly behind the door. Minutes passed. The man outside grew tired of waiting and decided to go to find his friend. Raskolnikov heard his footsteps going away.



As quietly as possible he hurried downstairs. Suddenly he heard shouts and footsteps coming up the stairs.



Crime and Punishment

Raskolnikov hid in the freshly-painted apartment until the footsteps went past. Then he went downstairs and out into the street. No one had seen him!



I'm so afraid!
Perhaps I should
go to the police
and confess now.

But Raskolnikov went back to his room. No one saw him as he put the ax back in its place.



I'll hide everything
here for now, but
what's this? There's
blood on my sock!

I almost forgot about this noose!



He cut the noose into small
pieces.

Then Raskolnikov started to undress. Suddenly he fainted. Hours later, Nastasya found him.



POCKET CLASSICS



The police
want to
see me!

They know
that I killed
those women!
What should
I do?

*Nastasya left. Raskolnikov
rubbed his bloody sock in the
dirt on his floor. It looked
awful, but he put it back on
his foot.*



Crime and Punishment

Raskolnikov walked toward the police station.



What if this is a trick?
Perhaps they will
search my room while
I'm away!

When Raskolnikov reached the station, the smell of fresh paint made him sick.



This is terrible!
Perhaps I
should confess
everything!

But when Raskolnikov reached the inspector's office. . .



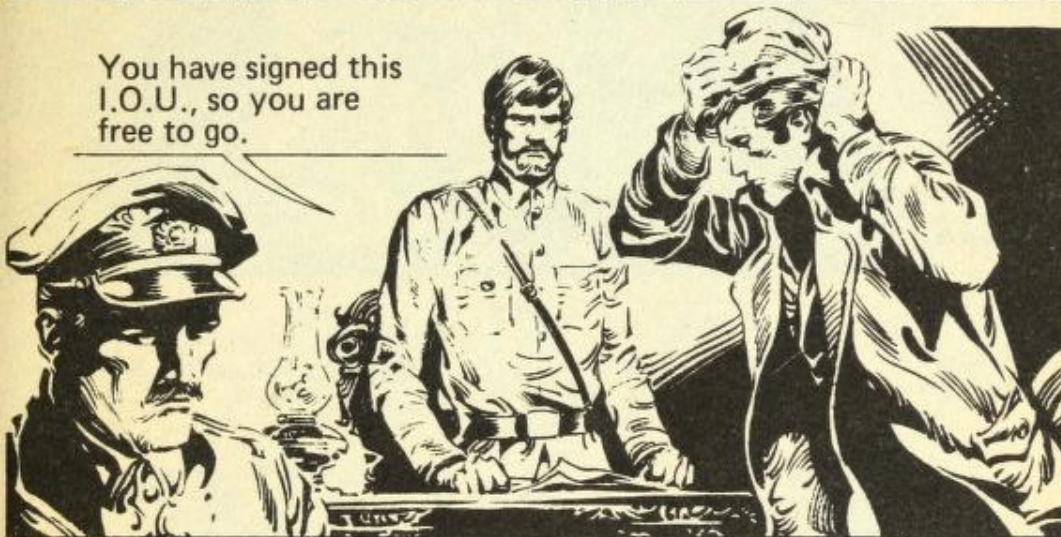
Take a seat,
please. The
inspector
will see
you soon.

It's only
routine!

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Crime and Punishment



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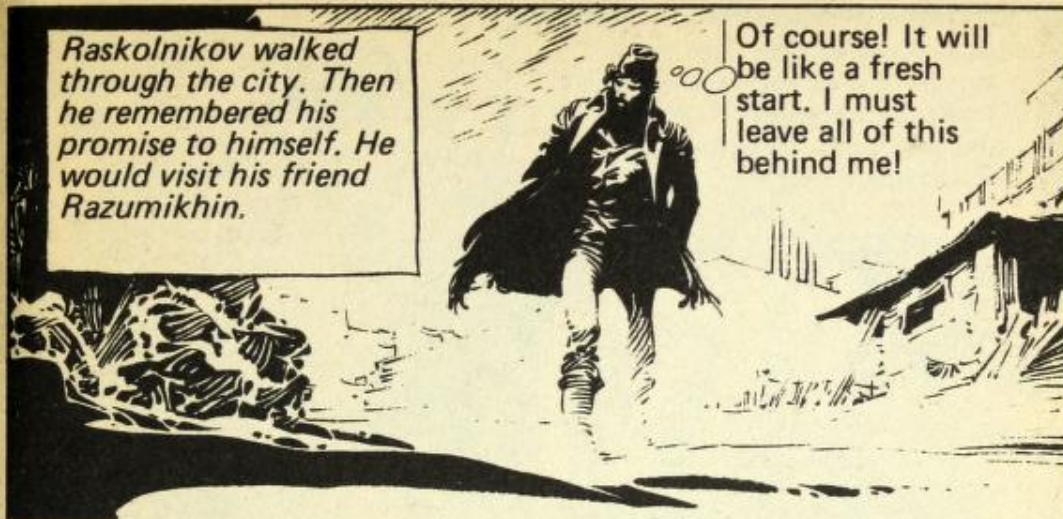


Finally Raskolnikov found an empty yard. There was a large stone there.

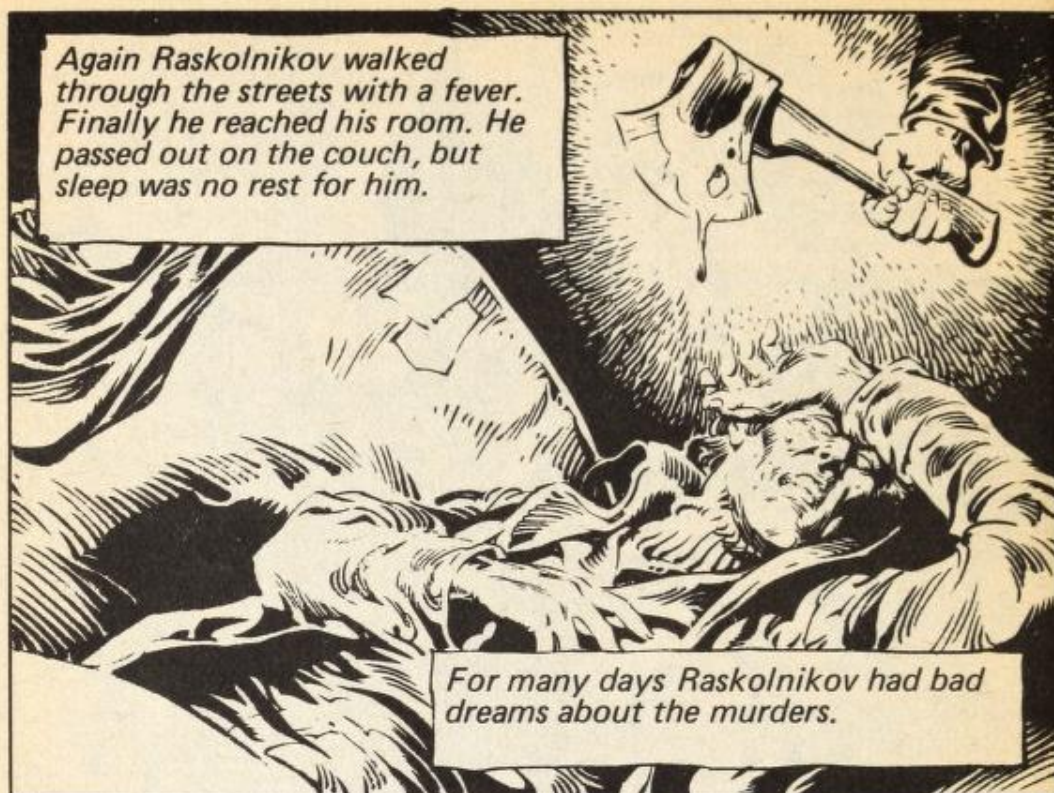
There! It's over. Why, I never even counted the money!



Crime and Punishment

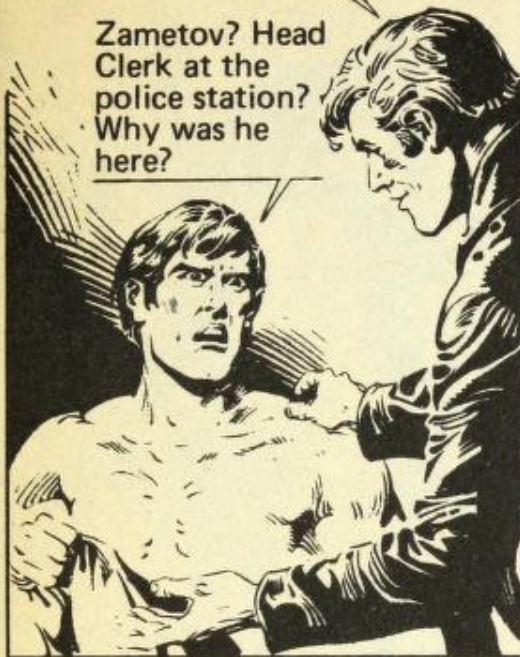


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Crime and Punishment

Why, Zametov has been here twice and you didn't even know it!



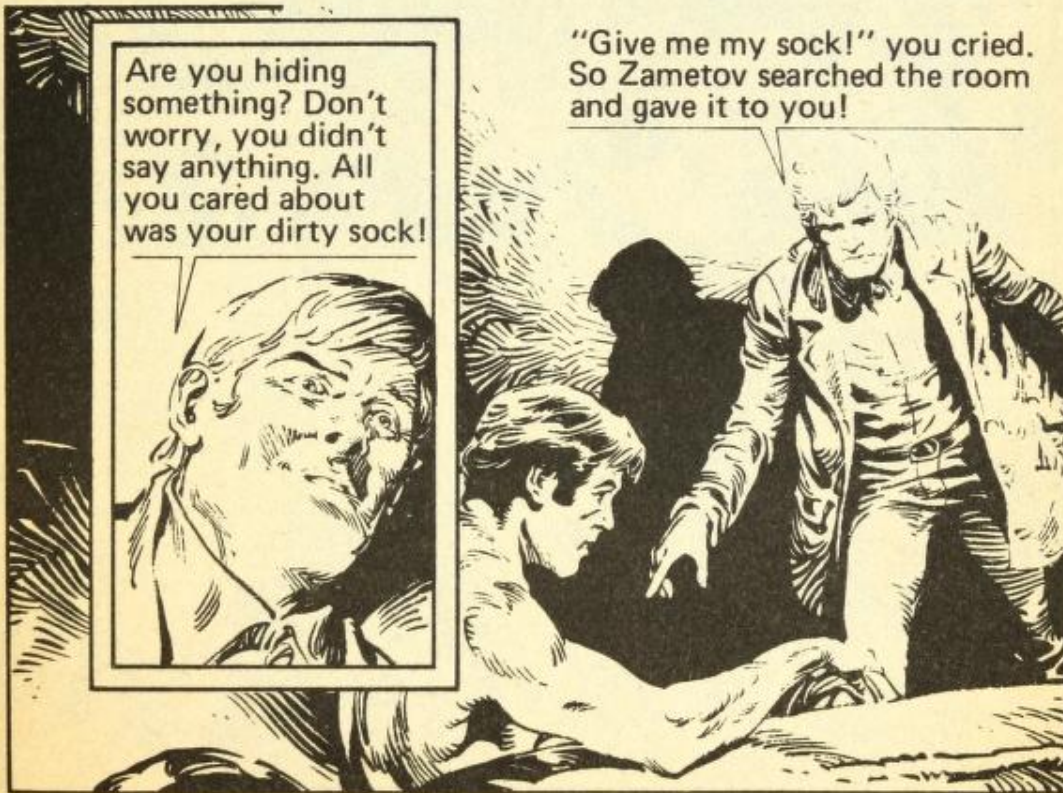
He's my friend.

Did I say anything?



Are you hiding something? Don't worry, you didn't say anything. All you cared about was your dirty sock!

"Give me my sock!" you cried. So Zametov searched the room and gave it to you!

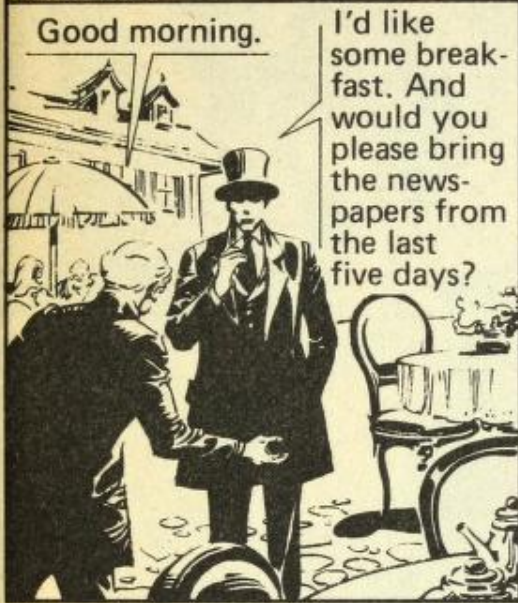


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Crime and Punishment

The next morning, Raskolnikov felt much better. He put on his new clothes and went outside. In his pocket was most of the money his mother had sent him.



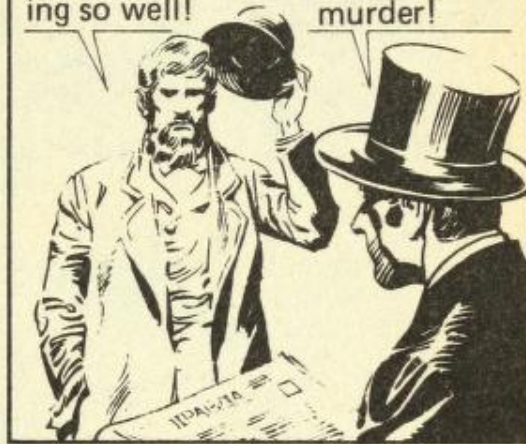
Good morning.

I'd like some breakfast. And would you please bring the newspapers from the last five days?

Raskolnikov read every story about the murder. Suddenly Zametov appeared.

Raskolnikov!
How good to see you looking so well!

Yes! I've come out to read about the murder!



Ah, what a terrible thing. But it was a bad plan, and I'm sure we'll catch the man soon.

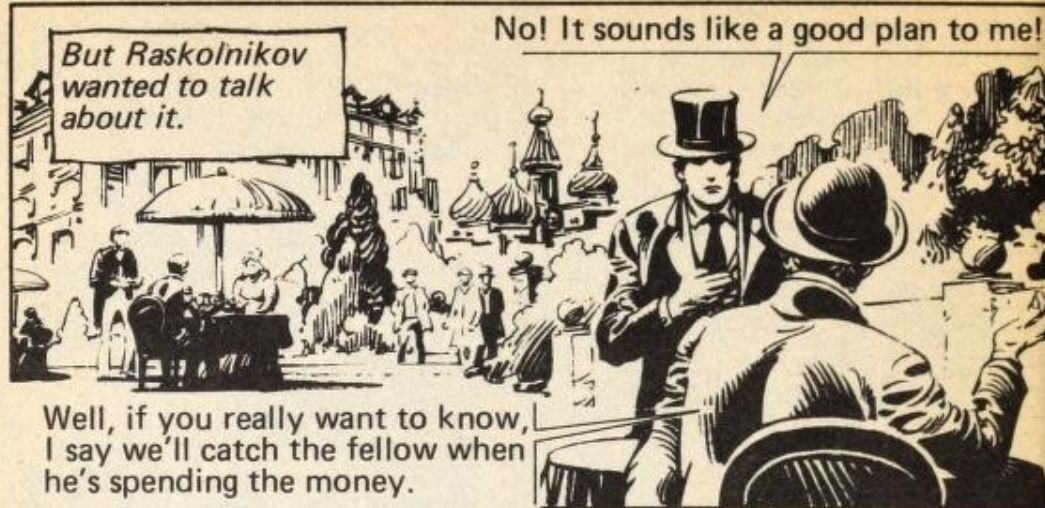
Bad plan? What do you mean?



Relax, Raskolnikov! This is nothing for you to be worried about.



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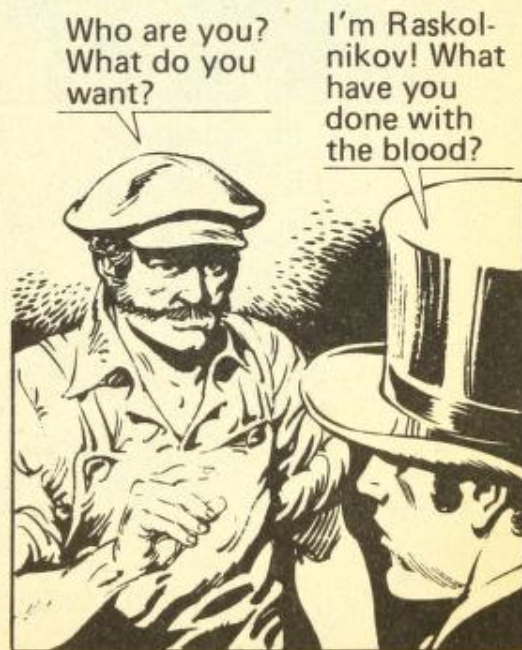


Crime and Punishment



And so Raskolnikov went to the old woman's apartment. The door was open, and painters were working inside.

The bell scared the painters.



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Crazy, you say!
Come with me to
the police and I'll
tell you everything.

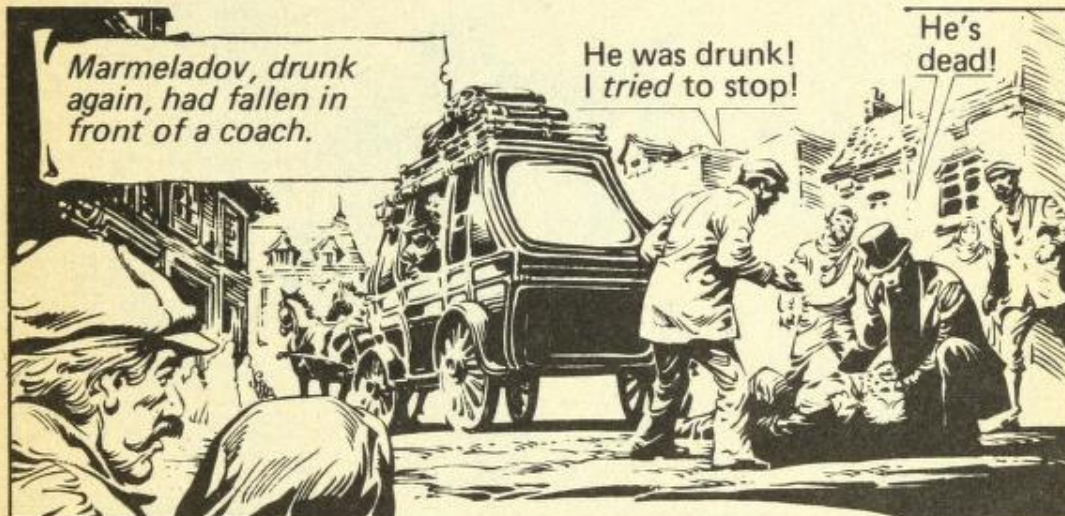
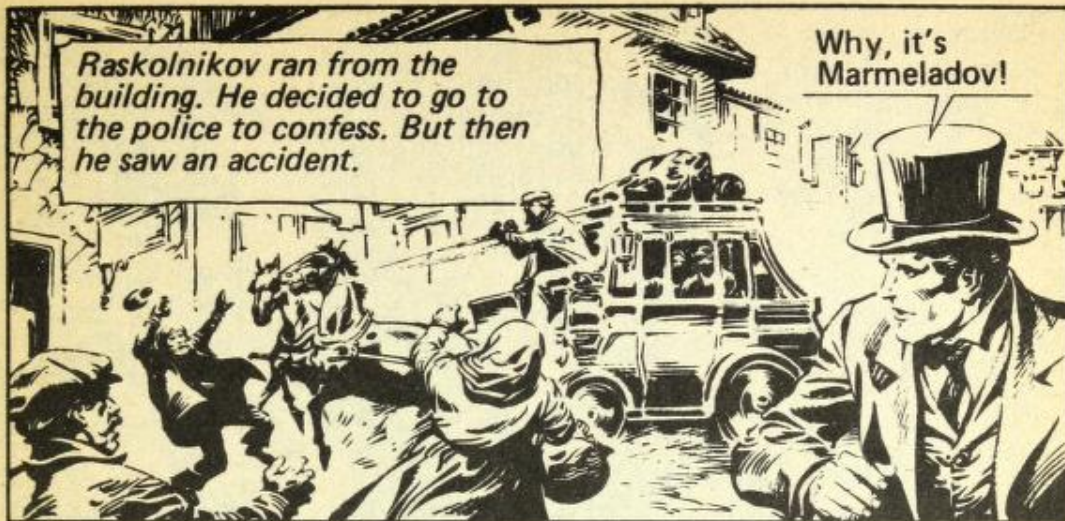


He's just
crazy!

Get out of here!
We can't be
bothered with
nuts like you!



Crime and Punishment



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Raskolnikov was very sorry for her. He gave the woman what was left of the money his mother had sent him. Then he left quickly.



Oh, Sonya! That man has just left us money for your father's funeral!

So that is Sonya.

Raskolnikov walked back into the street.



It seems funny, but now that I have seen death, I suddenly feel filled with life. I want to be free!

As Raskolnikov walked toward his apartment, he met Razumikhin.



Hello, Razumikhin!

Raskolnikov! What has happened? Your new clothes are covered with blood!

Crime and Punishment



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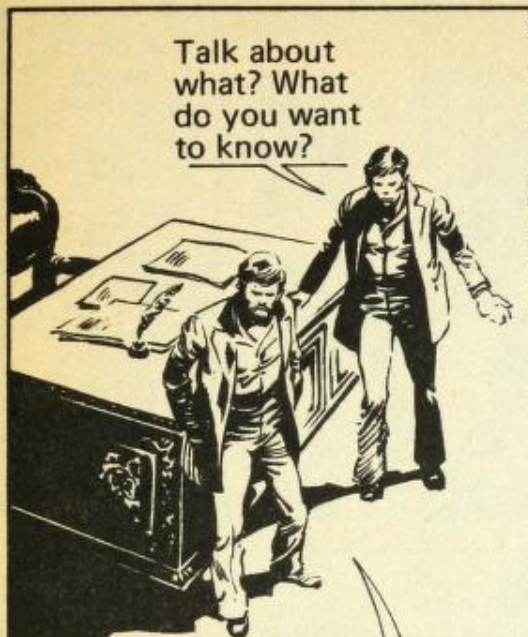
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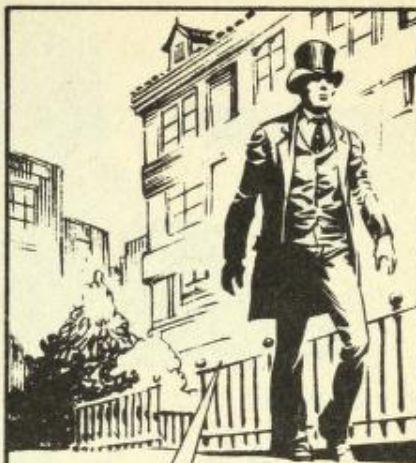
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Talk about what? What do you want to know?

Please! You are getting upset over nothing. I want you to go home and rest!

So Raskolnikov left the station and walked back to his apartment.

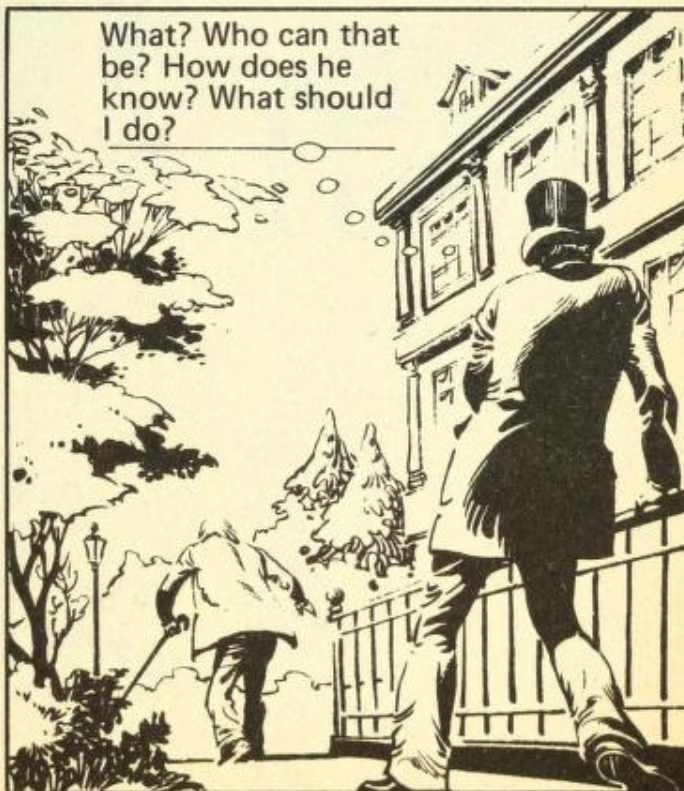


Perhaps it is nothing. Perhaps I've fooled Zametov.

But a strange old man was waiting at Raskolnikov's door.



Murderer! You're the one, and you know it!



What? Who can that be? How does he know? What should I do?

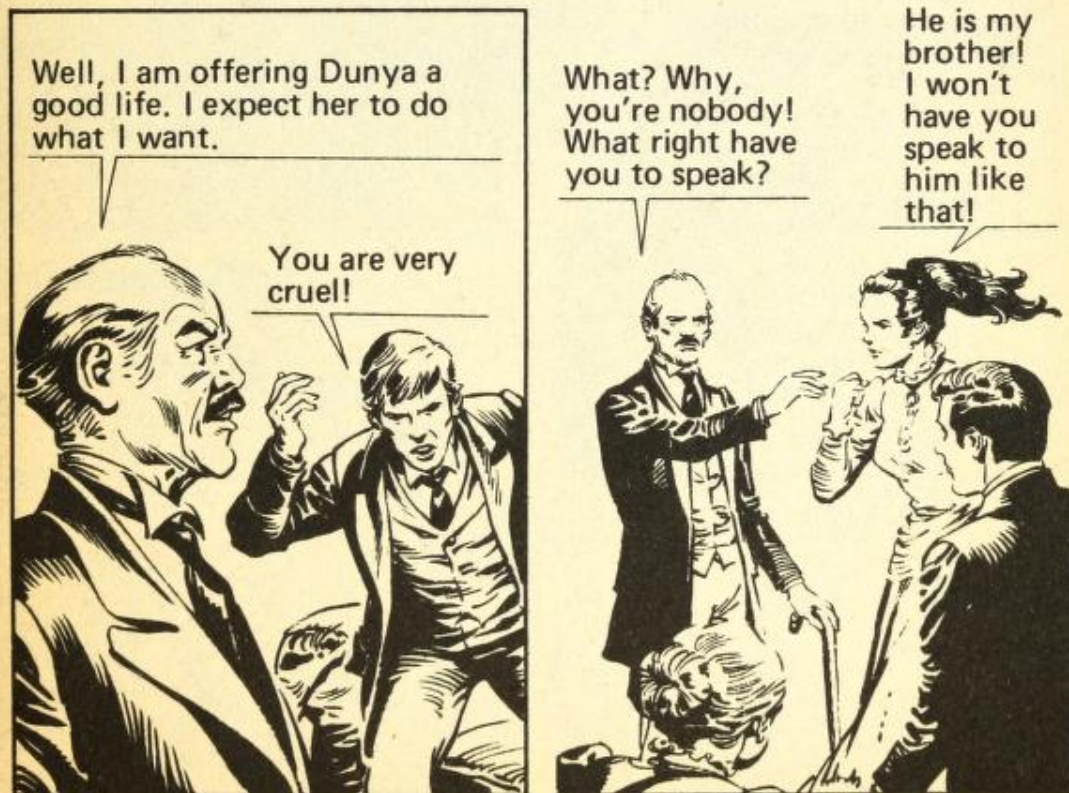
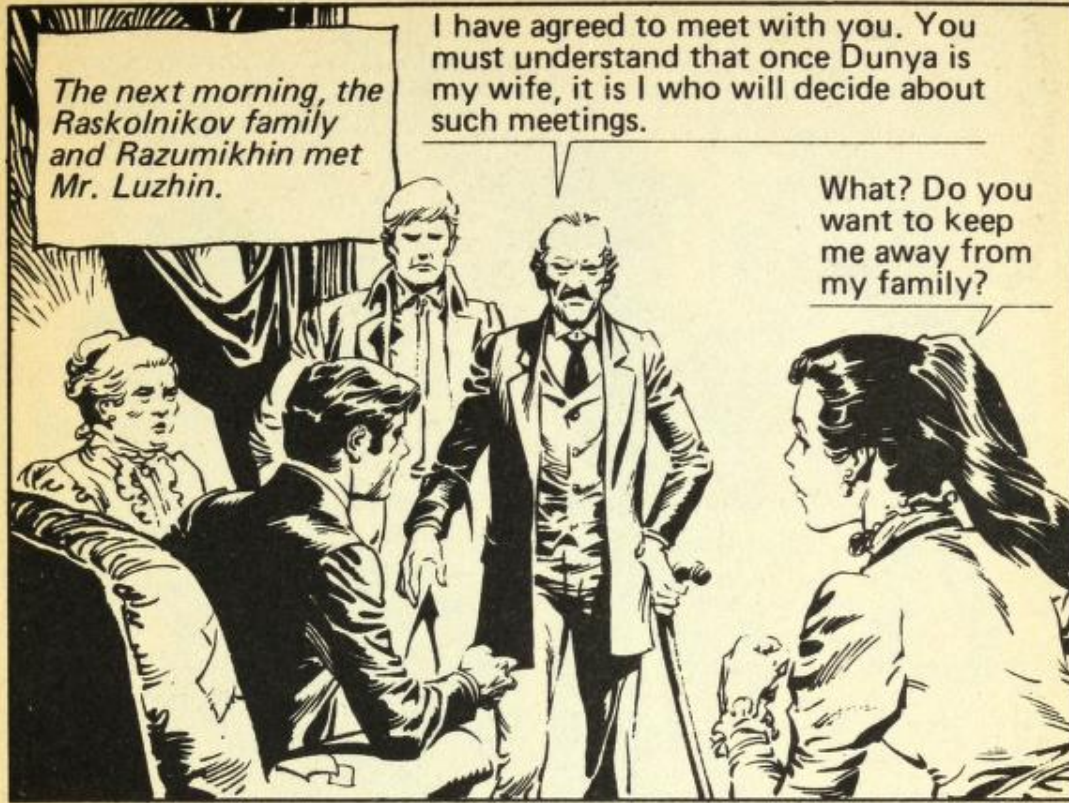
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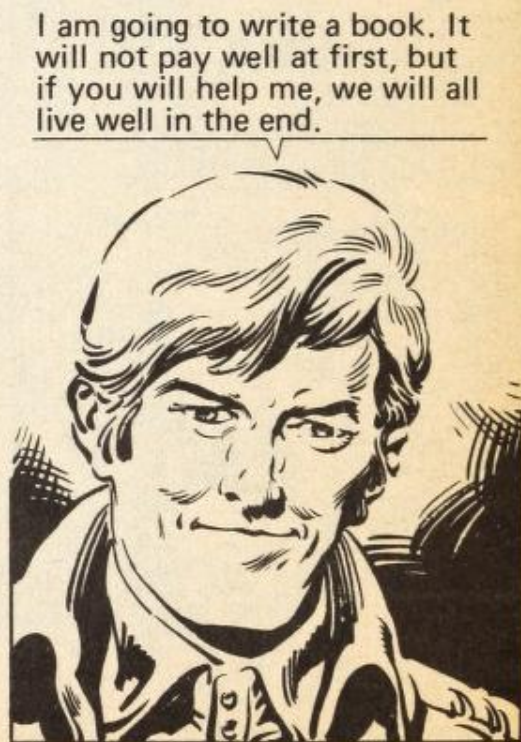
Forgive me, But I must go. Please come to see me tomorrow. I will do whatever I can.



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Crime and Punishment

I have done something terrible, but seeing you gives me hope!

There is always hope.



It was my dear friend Lizaveta who taught me this. Even now, I know it is true!



Lizaveta! Do you mean the woman who was killed with that other old woman?

Yes. Lizaveta was my friend, and I am sure she would have been your friend too.



Forgive me, but now it is I who must go. I will try to come and visit you again soon.



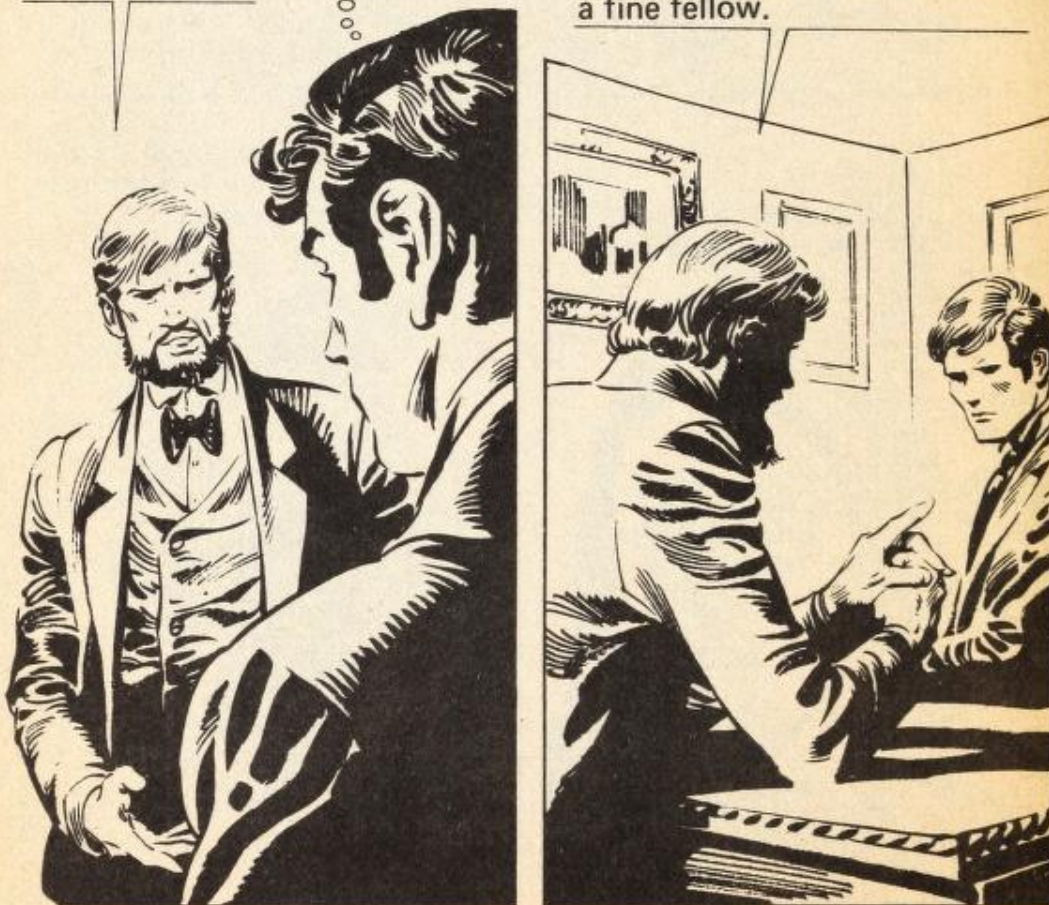
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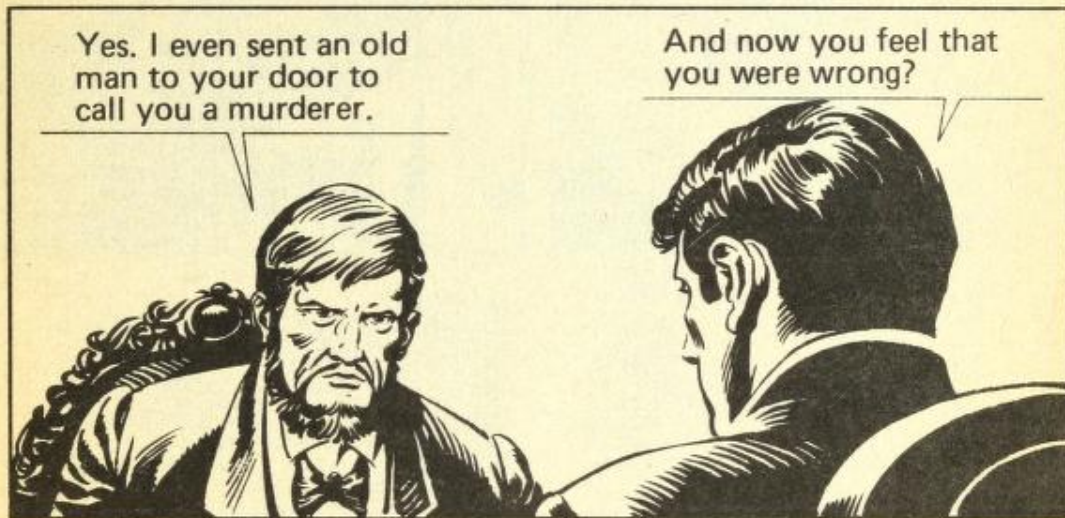
Please sit down; I really must tell you how sorry I am.

What? Can I escape?

I have been unfair to you. Razumikhin told me you are a fine fellow.



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That is why I want to speak with you. I know that you're having hard times, and it's going to get worse.



I want you to save yourself! If you confess, it won't be as bad. But there is something more important!



If you confess, you may be able to make peace with yourself!

This is crazy! May I go?



Yes, I will give you many days to think this over. I know that you killed those women, yet I trust you and wish you the best.



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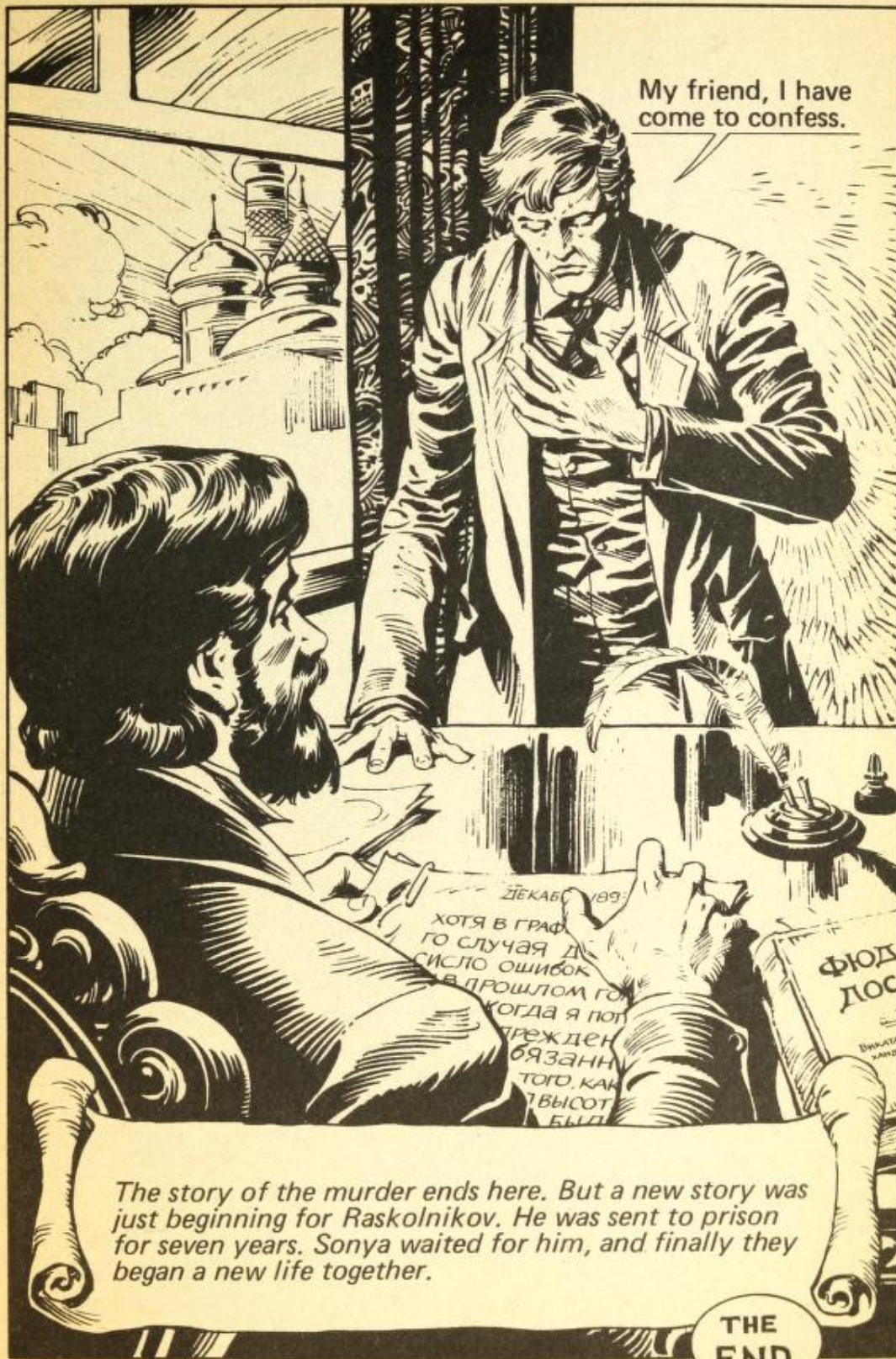
Then Sonya took two crosses out of her pocket. They were the same two crosses Raskolnikov had thrown away.



POCKET CLASSICS



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